

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRAINING WORKING TEAM FY 2004

INTRODUCTION

The TWT continues to meet regularly and deal with wildland fire training issues. Outstanding issues continue to be: the need for a comprehensive Training Management Program (TMP); increasing unmet demand for alternative delivery systems, increases in workload unrelated to the original charter, and appropriate utilization of contract training opportunities. We are moving ahead on a very limited basis with Distance Learning and Lessons Learned.

We believe that implementation of the TMP is critical to the future of the interagency wildland fire training program. Investing in the TMP would allow the TWT to improve the development process, increase efficiency, and provide quality assurance. We believe that failure to invest in the program will severely limit the future effectiveness of wildland fire training.

Curriculum that the Training Development staff is managing continues to expand as courses and positions are accepted by the IOSWT or Parent Group. The management of these courses is impacting the ability of the staff to provide timely development and revision of the suppression and incident management coursework. Technological advances are impacting all aspects of our program and are being felt in the Instructional Media Unit where staff is struggling to meet demand. Additional pressures are being put on the Training Development staff to take on courses that are not interagency in nature.

Expectations of the TWT are high, and we must prioritize issues and serve the wildland fire community in the best way possible with the resources and authorities we have.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP

Turnover on the Training Working Team this year includes the replacement of both Steve Hart and Billy Terry who were replaced by Mike Kopitzke, Montana DNR and Jim Barnett, respectively.

SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The TWT continues to meet annually with the geographic area training representatives and the IOS Working Team. These meetings improve coordination and we are increasing the number of joint meetings with IOS in 04 and 05 to facilitate revision of the PMS 310-1.

The NWCG Development Unit began this year with several new staff members. Overall the Unit has had significant turnover in the past several years.

Ten courses and seven job aids are, or will be, available in the Publications Management System this year, including:

S-131, Advanced Firefighter Training
S-211, Portable Pumps and Water Use
S-212, Wildfire Chain Saws

FI-210, Wildland Fire Origin & Cause Det.
J-236, Staging Area Manager
J-252, Ordering Manager

S-230, Crew Boss (Single Resource)	J-253, Receiving & Distribution Manager
S-231, Engine Boss (Single Resource)	J-254, Base/Camp Manager
S-271, Helicopter Crewmember	J-255, Equipment Manager
S-336, Tactical Decision Making in Wildland Fire	J-257, Incident Communications Cntr. Mgr.
S-430, Operations Section Chief	J-259, Security Manager
FI-110, Wildland Fire Obsv. & Origin Scene Protection for First Responders	

Carryover courses into FY05 include:

There are 24 courses currently being developed/revised in various stages of completion.

The development/revision cycle started October 1, 2004 for:

S-200, Initial Attack Incident Commander	S-346, Situation Unit Leader
S-203, Incident Information Officer	S-372, Helicopter Management
S-234, Ignition Specialist	D-110, Dispatch Recorder
S-261, Applied Interagency Incident Bus. Mgmt.	FI-310, Wildland Fire Invest., Case Dev.
S-300, Incident Commander, Extended Attack	

These courses are scheduled for completion by the end of FY06. For further information on course status see the NWCG Development Unit web site at www.fire.blm.gov/training/main.html

Publications Management System

All publications the TWT is responsible for in the Publications Management System have been evaluated and appropriate publications were transferred to other working teams or deleted. The deletion of S-132, Standards for Survival from PMS this year led to some confusion in the field. The letter clarifying replacement tools was distributed by NWCG in July and the new PMS 310-1 will reflect the new language.

NWCG Instructor Levels and Requirements

Existing instructor currency standards have been affirmed and that affirmation has resulted in a backlash from the contractor community that we are responding to. In addition, the TWT has completed a course-by-course review of existing instructor qualifications. Revised course-specific instructor qualifications will be documented in the next update of the Field Managers Course Guide.

Leadership Committee

The Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program web site was launched November 2002, and new content is added continually. Availability of this web site has been communicated to the wildland fire community by members of the Leadership Committee, both at meetings and through the distribution of leadership bookmarks. The www.fireleadership.gov web site had 123,665 hits in September 2004, with a total of 10,012 visitors. The website includes:

- A “Leadership Toolbox” of self-development documents.
- A “Staff Ride Library” relating to 3 wildland fires
- A Sand Table Exercise (STEX) and TDGS (Tactical Decision Games) library is under development that would provide approximately 40 new exercises by year-end.

The Leadership Committee is working with NAFRI on development of the L-480 Incident Management Team Leadership Seminar. The Leadership Committee provided “guiding principles” to the course steering committee for this development effort. A solicitation process was initiated and a vendor has been selected to deliver a prototype of this course in the spring of 2005.

The Leadership Committee is working with Fort Hays State University in Kansas to design and implement a substantive evaluation methodology for the L-380 Fireline Leadership course by the end of 2005.

Course criteria and delivery standards were used successfully in 2004 by a private sector vendor to begin delivery of the L-380 Fireline Leadership course. This represents the first success using a new model for course design and delivery.

Dispatch Committee

The Dispatch Committee continues to meet and work with IOSWT and TWT to identify the appropriate inclusion of dispatch responsibilities into the NWCG program of work.

Web Based Learning

The TWT and Distance learning Staff have focused primarily on the the exploration and development of appropriate infrastructure for the future. This includes:

- 3-Year Plan to identify NWCG course distance learning opportunities, conversion priorities, and future funding requirements.
- Development of a user-friendly Distance Education portal website from which all DL tools can be accessed.
- Testing of on-line delivery systems in partnership with the National Fire Academy's learning management system which provides the following functions:
 - Access to any Federal agency, state or local government employee, civilian or international person.
 - Automated online testing capability.
 - Online course completion documentation.

The Unit is currently working with the Development Unit and a contractor in the development of an on-line I-100 course to be complete in 2005. In addition we are working on a system to interface with IQCS.